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For Immediate Release

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WILDWOOD, NJ MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON IN CHILD SEX TOURISM CASE

PHILADELPHIA - Anthony Mark Bianchi, 46, of North Wildwood, NJ, was sentenced today to 25 years in prison for traveling in foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct (4 counts), engaging in illicit sexual conduct in a foreign place (3 counts), using a facility in foreign commerce to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity (2 counts), and conspiracy, announced United States Attorney Michael L. Levy.

Bianchi was convicted in August 2007 of traveling to Moldova and Romania, where he raped two boys, sexually assaulted three other boys and attempted to molest two others. The jury also convicted Bianchi of using international telephone calls to groom two more boys for sex. Bianchi was charged under a 2003 federal law that makes it illegal for Americans to commit sexual crimes against children in foreign countries. Ten victims crossed the globe to testify.

"Sex tourists are a special breed of predatory pedophile," said Levy. "They have the means to travel to foreign places where they think the law cannot reach them and where no one will care about their crimes. The only way to stop the Mark Bianchi's of the world is with serious sentences that illustrate the government's commitment to protect children around the globe from these destructive acts."

"Today' sentencing sends a clear message that if you travel abroad with the intention of having sex with children, you will be held accountable for your actions in the United States," said Special Agent-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement John Kelleghan. "ICE is committed to ensuring that individuals who commit these crimes never be allowed to harm another child."

In addition to the prison term, Bianchi was ordered to pay a fine of \$50,000, restitution in the amount of \$47,951.20, and a \$1,000 special assessment. Upon his release from prison, Bianchi will spend the remainder of his life on supervised release.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It was prosecuted by United States Attorney Michael L. Levy. The case also received assistance from the following: U.S. Embassy Moldova, U.S. Embassy Romania, Diplomatic Security Services,

Center for Combating Trafficking Against Women & Children (Moldova), Romanian Organized Crime Police, Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, and North Wildwood Police Department.

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